



Safeguarding Policy Statement – rev 18th November 2017

1. The Milton Keynes Operatic & Dramatic Society (MKAOS) recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons Act 1963, the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, the Protection of Children Act 1999 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.
2. MKAOS recognises that abuse can take many forms, whether it be physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. MKAOS is committed to practice which protects children from harm. All members of MKAOS accept and recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.
3. The society believes that the welfare of the child is paramount. All children, regardless of their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
4. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. If you see or suspect abuse, please make this known to Juliet Ratnage (07780 715837), who is our designated person for Safeguarding. If you suspect that the person responsible for child protection is the source of the problem, you should make your concerns known to the Chairman.
5. No child under 16 will be allowed to leave the rehearsal or performance area until collected by a parent, guardian or other adult authorised to do so by a parent or guardian. It is the parent's responsibility to arrange their collection and wherever possible a supervising adult will remain on the premises until all children have left.
6. The premises and equipment will be checked regularly for any defects or faults that exist or may have developed which might present hazards to any attending the premises.
7. No child will be driven home by a member of staff in his/her car without the permission of a parent or guardian, or in the event of an emergency.
8. MKAOS will attempt to ensure that no adult has unsupervised contact with children. If possible there will be two adults in the room and when this is unavoidable steps will be taken to minimise risk; such as working in an open area.
9. Adults will avoid any unnecessary physical contact with pupils. However, it is sometimes necessary in some activities of theatre and performing. Where this is the case, adults will use the utmost discretion, the purpose of the contact will be made clear and the consent of the child will be sought.



- 10.** On becoming members of MKAOS, parents of children will be asked to complete an enrolment form and sign a declaration, giving permission for their child to be chaperoned and appear in the show, as well as publicity events, photos and any video recording that might be made of the performance.
- 11.** MKAOS will ensure that all members are properly covered against incidents involving public liability and professional insurance.
- 12.** MKAOS operates a non-smoking policy.
- 13.** At all times, MKAOS will endeavour to keep the highest standards of instruction and behaviour. We reserve the right to discharge any member who persistently absent from rehearsals/performances, uses offensive language or other anti-social behaviour.